KANSAS MEDICAL JOURNAL.

VOL. VI. TOPEKA, KANSAS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1894. No. 35.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.

Acute Bright's Disease.

BY L. H. MURPHY, M. D., MINNEAPOLIS, KAN.

Read before the Golden Belt Medical Society April 5, 1894.

After exposure to cold, or scarlet fever, or checked perspiration, we have pain in the loin, with headache, the pain in the loin resembling those of ordinary nephritis. Sometimes the pain is severe and acute, but more frequently moderate, extending downward to the groin, and usually increased by firm pressure. Micturition is sometimes painful, and always scanty. Fever follows, with oppressed breathing, and the face, limbs and trunk become swollen and anasarcous.

I wish here to report a case which came under my observation October 9, 1893. I was called to Mrs. G., age 22 years, at that time pregnant four months. Family history excellent. I found heart sounds normal, but very rapid, with a general puffiness of the limbs and trunk; face pale and somewhat puffed; deep-seated pain over the kidneys. The urine was loaded with albumen and at the time very turbid and very scanty, not passing more than eight ounces in twenty-four hours. The pulse was 120 and sometimes 140, seldom below 120, and temperature of 102° for many days. I have no microscope, consequently did not examine for casts. The patient being pregnant I reluctantly gave her the compound jalap powder, which did very well, but soon lost its effect. She was given the alcohol steam bath by placing her on an open bottom chair and covering with a sheet and burning alcohol in a saucer under the chair. The patient was then given the infusion of digitalis and nitrous ether combined, but the stomach rebelled against it. Patient continued to grow more anasarcous and nervous. I had constant fears of uremic convulsions. She was then given three drops of the Fl. Ext. digitalis every four hours. She could not take it long. She was then put on tinct. strophanthus to control the inordinate action of the heart, which did well. The urine was very nearly solid albumen, the patient very nervous, has passed some pus, and is enormously swollen; urine shows no decrease in albumen. Dr. Maclay is called in and the treatment continued. I will say here the patient was kept on a milk diet all the time. I now made a free incision over both lower legs, whereby the patient lost gallons of water. In three days from the date of incisions premature labor came on, and I expected a lively time. Patient delivered of a 7-pound boy at the eighth month with as little trouble to myself as any labor I ever attended. But the anasarca has continued. The patient is given elaterium, ⅛ in a drachm of cream tartar, every twenty-four hours, with but little effect. She is now given tinct. ferri. chlor. gts., 20 every four hours. There is improvement. She is also given 1 dr. of potassa bitartrate in half pint of lemonade to drink through the day, which relieves the bowels and kidneys some.

February 20 the patient is given one tablespoonful of sulphate of magnesia every morning hourly until large watery discharges have been obtained. The patient at this date is still on a milk diet and taking gts. xx of tinct. ferri. chlor. every four hours, with the tinct. of strophanthus to control the heart. The amount of albumen is very much reduced. The swollen condition of the limbs and trunk has been very

much decreased. The tinct. ferri. chlor. is increased to gts. xxx every four hours, with a generous supply of milk with the sulphate of magnesia every morning, which has brought the patient down to her normal size. There is still some albumen, but she considers herself about well. I have directed her to continue the milk diet with the iron tinct. gtt. xx every four hours and to guard against all manner of exposure.

Hydrocephalus in Utero.

BY W. S. BUNN, M. D., LAWRENCE.

As hydrocephalus in utero is of infrequent occurrence (one to 3,000, Lachapelle) I have taken the liberty of reporting the following case:

Case No. ——. Consultation visit. Dr. G—— in attendance. Mrs. D——, age 21. Primipara, in active labor 72 hours, diagnosis "uterine insufficiency." Large quantities of ergot had been administered (how much I could not learn), and the doctor had attempted the use of the forceps.

Examination revealed the following conditions: Patient pulseless at the wrist, heart fluttering, sounds indistinct, unable to distinguish and count separate beats, extremities cold. The voice was strong, however, the eyes bright, and no other signs of impending death present.

This is the first and last picture of ergot poisoning I have ever seen. There was constant pain and the uterus was rigidly and permanently contracted. The cervix was dilated, membranes ruptured and head presenting at the inlet. Owing to the great tension fluctuation could not be detected, and from the firm contraction of the uterus palpation through the abdominal walls gave negative results. Without being positive of the existence of hydrocephalus, but certain of the death of the child and the necessity of immediate relief, I incised the cranium with a scalpel. A vast deal of water at once escaped, and by means of the forceps delivery was effected in five minutes and the placenta "creded." A moderate post partum hemorrhage followed.

This woman remained pulseless for twelve hours, after which the heart gradually resumed the "even tenor of its way," and her recovery was uneventful.

The size of this hydrocephalic head was enormous. Upon being filled with water, without tension, the globe measured 84 centimeters in circumference.

THE syrup of hydriodic acid in teaspoonful doses is probably the most efficient medicinal treatment for hay fever. It is always best to ascertain, however, if there are polypi or other nasal obstruction which may act as a local irritant, and remove the same.

TURBAN recommends the following as a snuff for ozena:

Iodol.....	aa. 3 j¼
Tannic acid.....	
Boric acid.....	

VACCINATION.—The Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania and New York have decided that children may be prevented from attending school who have not been vaccinated for smallpox.

FROM some recent experiments it has been concluded that the function of the pituitary body is to produce a secretion which is of profound importance in the nutrition of the nervous and neuro-muscular systems.

WON WEK, the plague which has been depopulating China for the past few months, is abating. The Japanese have taken the job.

THE Southeast Kansas Medical Society meets in Cherokee. Kan., September 4, 1894.

Kansas Medical Journal.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, INCLUDING POSTAGE:

Per annum, in advance..... $1 00
Single copies..... 15 cents

Subscription may begin at any time. The safest mode of remittance is by bank check or postal money order drawn to the order of the undersigned. When neither is accessible, remittances may be made at the risk of the publishers, by forwarding in Registered Letter. Address

KANSAS MEDICAL JOURNAL,
723 Kansas Avenue.

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Topeka, Kansas, Saturday, Sept. 1, 1894.

"Diabolism at the Imbecile Asylum."

The above heading is the subject of a diatribe in last Sunday's Topeka *Capital*, the food being furnished by the Winfield *Courier* as it masticates Dr. Pilcher, of the imbecile asylum at Winfield. The *Capital* says that the *Courier* proves that the facts are ten-fold worse than the suspicions, and that the *Courier* publishes eight columns of its investigations in its Friday morning issue, and the following facts may be summed up from its report:

"Eleven boys were subjected to the knife; helpless fellows placed by their parents in the charge of the State for tender care and support were thown on a table and treated by the reform superintendent as the farmer treats his hogs in the Spring of the year."

It further appears that during the four years of Dr. Wiles' superintendency of the asylum, just preceding Dr. Pilcher, the death-rate at the asylum averaged annually 2 per cent. of the inmates; but during the one year of Pilcher's incumbency, the death-rate has been 16 per cent., or eight times as heavy. A letter has been received from Dr. C. T. Wilber, for eighteen years superintendent of the Illinois asylum for idiotic and imbecile youth, which says:

"As to the practice of castrating either feebleminded boys or the insane for masturbation, it is unlawful in most States and unjustifiable, and the individuals practicing it should be placed in the penitentiary just as quick as possible for such atrocious practice. It was never practiced in institutions in this or other countries. Respectfully yours.

C. T. WILBER."

We are not acquainted with Dr. Pilcher, hence know only his newspaper reputation as given by his friends (?). We know nothing about his management of the asylum or his qualifications as a practitioner of medicine. We have no axe to grind, no friends to punish, or enemies to reward (?) but from a disinterested standpoint will make a few remarks.

To a thoughtless public these newspaper reports are appalling. They sound harsh and cruel. The mention of the knife and the dissecting table makes the average mortal shudder. The mind associates with them blood, gaping wounds, mutilated human bodies and hades. What are the facts? The knife and dissecting table have done more to relieve human suffering than all other human agencies combined. Viewed from a humanitarian standpoint, what do these newspaper accounts tell us? That a number of imbecile youth were castrated. They were confirmed masturbators—unless the attendant was with them, and even if his back was turned to them while in his presence they would commit the act. This abuse weakened the already imbecile mind, and destroyed the body. The practice is loathesome, disgusting, humiliating and destructive of all self-respect and decency, and had a bad moral effect on the whole

school, It is not desirable, but positively dangerous and injurious, to society for any of this class of persons to propagate their species. It should be positively prohibited by law. Society has some rights, and particularly are we imposed upon in this country in permitting the reproduction of such beings for society to maintain. All confirmed criminals should be castrated. All imbecile and idiotic youth. Every rapist. This is a duty society owes itself. This would be self-protection and a means of improving the human race.

There is no more danger in the operation when properly done than in the pig, lamb, or calf.

There is a maudlin, sickly sentimentality prevailing in our country that encourages crime and makes law-abiding citizens law-breakers. Take, for example, the rapist. Public sentiment says lynch him, cut him in pieces, skin him alive, burn him at the stake. It is done, and what is the result? Are rapes less frequent? Has the State or community gained anything by the double crime? Do two wrongs make a right? Is moral effect of the killing elevating to the community? The answer is invariably: No. But castrate such an one in addition to imprisonment for a time and the State is the gainer. The crime of murder is not charged to the community. There is a chance of reforming the criminal. He may yet make a good and useful citizen. The cause of his crime is removed. There will be no children of his to repeat the misdeed, and the holy terror to such an one is worse than death, and the restraining influence greater.

We are desperately sentimental as a people, when it suits us. We foster and encourage the begetting of children that we know will be a burden to the world as long as they live, and when they commit the very deed for which they are fitted, for which they have been trained, our hands we hold up in holy horror, and vengeance is meted out on the victim. Instead of destroying, let us prevent them. Insteac of increasing crime and our burdens let us look to wholesome sensible means of prevention, by castrating all imbecile and idiotic children early, from the fifth to the tenth year. Confirmed criminals and epileptics also. By so doing crime will be lessened, life saved, the race benefited, our burdens lightened, and the greatest good will result to the greatest number and no harm to the subject—but good only.

But to our subject. The death rate in the asylum as reported is misleading on general principles. Every physician of experience knows that there are seasons of mortality in his practice. For months, or a series of three or four years, he may lose but 1 or 2 per cent. of his cases, and then for a few months or a year or two fate is against him. It seems that every case he touches dies, and this may be so in the asylum cases.

C. T. Wilber's letter has but little force. He is in the business. He gets his bread and butter in that way. "Unlawful," then make it lawful if we do not wish to increase such a population for some people to spend their lives in caring for. A sane man should have some rights. The imbecile and idiotic youth should be properly cared for and when subject to self-abuse they should be castrated. No harm can result to the subject, and the sane are protected from a repetition of the charge.

The political wail sent up by the *Courier* is amusing when the facts in the case as it sets them forth are seen through plain glasses. Dr. Pilcher may be incompetent and unfited for the position, but nothing is gained by arousing the prejudice of the people against their own good, and perverting the right into the appearance of a wrong.

DR. M. O'BRIEN, of this city, who succeeded Dr. Redden as Secretary of the State Board of Health, died August 28 of typhoid fever. Dr. O'Brien was a retired army officer, and had lived in this city for many years. While not in the active practice he was closely identified with the profession, and served one term as president of the Topeka Academy of Medicine and Surgery. He was well known to the profession throughout the State.

The Opposition Again.

Another enemy to medical legislation has shown his colors in the *Medical Brief*, Dr. A. R. Knapp, of Leota, Kansas, a graduate of the Curtiss Physio-Medical Institute of Marion, Indiana, in 1886.

He most naturally has no use for the Hypocratic oath or the Code of Ethics. He says he believes in higher medical education, but, if so, we can hardly understand his opposition to legislation requiring higher education. We anticipate little danger from this sort of opposition, but we regret to see such open manifestation of selfish interest against the welfare of all mankind and the building up of the great profession which it is every physician's duty to respect.

Women in Medicine.

We are told that women are excluded from a university education in Germany. Hence a woman cannot practice medicine in that country. In Austro-Hungary the admission of women to higher grade instruction is forbidden by law. It is even worse in Spain and the Iberian peninsula. But in the following countries women are thought to be as good as men, if they behave themselves, viz.: The United States, England, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Roumania and Italy. A woman is professor of histology in the medical faculty of Bologna.

Hypnotism.

Hypnotism has always existed. The ancients called it the trance state. It may be classified as primary and secondary hypnotism. In the former the patient or subject hypnotizes himself; in the latter he is hypnotized by another.

In self hypnotism he is under the control of the great soul of the universe, he says, and predicts future events. The person who is hypnotized by another is under the control of the hypnotist and does his bidding implicitly, having given up all self-control. He says and does and sees exactly what is suggested to him. In the case of self hypnotism, the mind in the trance state carries out the thoughts, desires and purposes of the waking imagery of the brain. There may be no clear perception, only a vague idea of the thought desired, but when the mind is completely put in the trance state, the ideas or thoughts take on form and of exactly the nature of the desire during the waking period. A working out of the plan, if you please, the same as a difficult problem which has baffled us during our wakeful moments is solved in sleep. Science has not said its last word on hypnotism yet. Hypnotism is fast becoming the servant of the physician and surgeon. Hypnotism is beneficial in one, if not in two, ways. First, in relieving pain, and second, in foretelling future events. The latter is questionable. If it is a bringing up or recounting to the mind what has previously been impressed upon it, it is simply the old story of history repeating itself. But owing to the present ignorance of what mind is, its exact habitat, what the condition of it is during unconscious moments, such as sleep, the comatose state, etc., the true state of hypnotism is mostly an unknown quantity.

DR. PAGE claims that washing out the stomach by means of the stomach tube should be resorted to chiefly in those cases where dilatation is marked as in obstruction to the pylorus from cancer or other cause. Of therapeutic agents to assist digestion he recommends papoid as the best. From one and a half to three grains should be given of the papoid three times a day just after meals.

THE death-rate in typhoid fever in sewered and unsewered cities is as 2½ to 10.

Free Scholarships in the Kansas Medical College.

Two free scholarships have been endowed in the Kansas Medical College. One known as the J. C. McClintock scholarship, and the other as the S. E. Sheldon scholarship. The privileges of these scholarships are open to students under the following conditions which are prescribed in both:

"This scholarship will be open to any first course white student who furnishes a certificate from his or her preceptor stating that the student is unable to pay the college fees, and provided that the student is otherwise eligible for admission to the college.

"In case there are two or more applicants for the scholarship, it shall be allotted to the student passing the best examinations on the first Monday following the opening of the Kansas Medical College in 1894 before a special committee consisting of the secretary of the college and two members of the Faculty to be appointed by the Dean, said examinations to be in Latin, physics, and English composition."

Mississippi Valley Medical Association.

The twentieth annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association will occur in Hot Springs, Ark., November 20, 21, 22 and 23, 1894.

The association is now in a more prosperous condition than ever before, and no efforts will be spared to make the meeting at Hot Springs not only the largest but the most interesting and profitable ever held. Indeed, its success is already assured, many valuable papers by most excellent authors having been promised.

Hot Springs is an ideal place of meeting, and November in that charming Southern health resort is the delightful month of the year.

Socially, the visit will be enjoyable in the extreme, as the physicians and citizens with their characteristic hospitality are united and enthusiastic in their endeavors to make the sojourn of their guests pleasant.

The railroad rates will be very low and will be announced later.

You are cordially invited to be present at this meeting. Respectfully,

FREDERICK C. WOODBURN,
Secretary, Indianapolis, Ind.

LET the babies have fresh air. Do not cover their heads when asleep. It causes them to breathe over and over again the air taken into the lungs. It is just as healthy for you to drink the water you wash in as to re-breathe the air. To keep the flies off a mosquito netting can be used, but kept well up from the baby's face. In Winter the air of the living room is sufficiently warm.

STALE bread is much more healthy than fresh bread. Fresh bread is more palatable, but when chewed it becomes doughy, is rolled up in a ball which enters the stomach coated over with a glairy mucus, and is very difficult for the stomach juices to penetrate.

SICK persons particularly should be kept clean inside and out. Agents that will render the juices of the body aseptic internally by destroying and diluting the poison, and plenty of water and some soap externally.

CHILD LIFE INSURANCE.—The Board of Health of Memphis, Tenn., is wrestling with this evil. It is an abominable practice and leads to crime.

ACROMEGALIA was first described by P. Marie in 1886. It is an abnormal development of the extremities. Its true pathology is not known.

The Doctor and the Druggist.

The Medical Brief.

Many things have been written on this subject, some true and some from a prejudiced standpoint. The tone of much of the writing on this subject is that the druggists are all unprincipled substitutors. While we are compelled to admit that some of them are, they are not all alike. I believe that in every town of any considerable size there are some honorable men among them who are far above substitution. Such, at least, has been my experience and acquaintance with them. It is the physician's privilege to look for this better class and his duty to encourage them by giving his business to them. It will also be a safeguard to his patients and to his reputation.

I know a few druggists who would rather send a prescription away than substitute in any way. These are the men the doctor wants to know; and to this end it would be of advantage if physicians would compare notes and, by sifting, bring out the good men.

A good deal of what has been said presupposes the doctor always right. It needs no argument to show the error of this assumption. And it is equally plain that the druggist comes in for more blame than he deserves. His position is a defenseless one against calumny.

Not all physicians are sufficiently honorable to bear the results of their own errors in diagnosis, or combination of remedies and incorrect dosage. My eight years behind the druggist's counter have entirely convinced me of the truth of this statement. The druggist bears the blame.

The good pharmacist is an advantage to the physician, as I can also testify by my ten years of active practice. They are often better chemists and pharmacists than the doctor, and are willing to give advantageous suggestions in their line. Many prescriptions could be improved with the aid of their knowledge. The drug store, alone, with its suggestive labels, has often been a grateful reminder to the physician, and many times relieved him of that common after expression, "I wish I had remembered that before." or "Why didn't I think of that sooner?" by bringing to mind the most desirable combination.

Probably the honorable, intelligent pharmacist is of as much value to the physician as the physician is to the pharmacist, when working in their different vocations and in friendly relations. As far as I am able so to make it, my pharmacist shall be my my friend, for in that relation he is an encyclopedia of pharmaceutical knowledge, very available, and to the point.

Pharmacy is much too large a field for the medical profession to enter in connection with general practice. At this time, when there is such a tendency to specialties, with the great advancement in these lines, it would be taking a step backward for the general practitioner to enter the wide field of pharmacy, in addition to all these advanced lines. The average ability will not cover all these, nor will the time allow it.

I shall always encourage and endeavor to maintain a friendly relation with the pharmacist, for that is his natural relation to the profession, unless made an enemy by unjust treatment. Let us uphold him in the honorable discharge of his duty, and with equal zeal let us discourage his worst enemy, as well as ours—the incompetent and unprincipled substitutor.

S. J. HAMPSHIRE, M. S., M. D.

Topeka, Kan.

Indications and Limits of Topical Treatment in Laryngeal Phthisis.

American Medico-Surgical Bulletin—Lenox Browne (La Semaine Medicale; April 4, 1894).

The indications for topical treatment depend upon (1) the state of the larynx, acute or chronic; (2) the degree of the tuberculous affection, infiltration, superficial or deep ulceration, necrosis or caries of the cartilages, and development of neoplasms; (3) the state of the lungs.

The results of treatment in 102 cases of

laryngeal phthisis studied by eight different observers, grouped in the author's report, show that in 32 cases in which both lungs were diseased the treatment did not cure, but simply improved the condition; in 31 cases in which the disease was limited to one lung only, but was of a grave nature, cure was obtained in 1 case and improvement in 8 cases. In 24 cases in which the lesions were limited to one side, and were moderate in nature, cure was obtained in 6 cases and improvement in 16 cases; and in 15 cases in which there were no pulmonary symptoms, 2 cases were cured and 7 were improved. The author concludes from these statistics, which comprise but a single case of cure (that being one of his own), that the chances of recovery, and even of improvement, depend to a large degree upon the co-existence and extent of pulmonary disease.

As to the methods and limitations of treatment, Browne does not advise the use of morphine, except in hopeless cases. nor cocaine except for intra-laryngeal curettage, for applications of lactic acid, or for the temporary relief of dysphagia. All medicaments (except lactic acid) should be applied as a spray, and not in the form of insufflated powders. Menthol or menthol combined with iodol and dissolved in oil is one of the best remedies in the stage preceding ulceration. The curette may be employed to destroy the hyperplasia, to remove dead matter from large ulcerations, and to unite the small multiple ulcers into a single large one. The curette may also be of value prior to the application of lactic acid, but its use in this connection is not indicated in more than a fifth of the cases. Lactic acid, to be really efficacious, should be employed with friction. Puncture and incision of the infiltrated tissues, as practiced by Schmidt and Rosenthal, should be avoided, as they produce no favorable result and hasten the development of ulcers. Extirpation of the arytenoid cartilages (Heryng and Gougenheim) is not to be advised, as these are rarely the seat of morbid alterations; and if such alterations do exist, the disease is at such an advanced state that intervention is contra-indicated.

According to the author's observations, tracheotomy should not be performed in tuberculosis of the larynx. While applying the topical treatment the rules of hygiene and internal medication should also be considered, as well as the climate best adapted to each patient.

Untoward Effects of Iodoform.

Professor Lewin in Hospitals-Tidende.

On the skin, in single cases acne and purpura have been noticed after its internal use. Cutaneous symptoms are frequent, and are chiefly more or less limited to local dermatitis, though it may also be general and not due to local contact; this may be either eczematous, vesicular, pustular, impetiginous or erysipelatous, and often accompanied by high fever. In other cases there may be extensive erythematous eruptions with formation of bullæ or purpural patches, as well as urticaria and papules—intense itching may last for several weeks. Conjunctivitis, changes in the pupils, strabismus, and transient amblyopia, are sometimes reported. Among the nervous symptoms are psychic changes, which either exist alone or are the forerunners of more severe mental affections; in the majority these assume the form of melancholias, with anxiety, uneasiness of mind, inclination to tearfulness, suicidal mania, and restlessness, very often alternated with periods of excitation; or may be associated with vertigo, headache, elevation of temperature, sleeplessness, and small and rapid pulse—the pulse may, without disturbance of the general health, run up so as to become uncountable, while the temperature remains normal, yet the latter is liable to rise several degrees over the normal and remain there for several days without the patient feeling ill. The increase of pulse without accompanying fever is a dangerous symptom in elderly people. Melancholia, which is the chief symptom of the cerebral action of the antiseptic, when it has once appeared, persists, and is accompanied by

hallucinations, visions, and illusions, delirium of persecution and attempts at suicide —such patients, as a rule, at night, and even during the day, suddenly jump from their beds, try to spring from the windows, to run away or throw themselves into the water; attempt to tear off bandages, destroy the bed-clothes; talk confusedly, stamp the feet, rage, and do not recognize surroundings; this condition may last from a few hours to a few days, and pass over into a morose and tearful state, which soon ends in recovery. They remember nothing of the attack. This is a typical attack of transitory melancholia. In some cases the depression increases in intensity, and complete melancholic stupor develops, with refusal to take food and rapid death. Seizures of anxious excitement and confusion, choreiform attacks, loss of appetite, and vomiting, have also been remarked. In men and animals poisoned with iodoform no alterations are found in the brain and its membranes, but fatty or parenchymatous degeneration of the heart muscle, liver, and kidneys.

An Ointment for Rheumatic Joints.

The Therapeutic Gazette.

The *Journal de Medicine de Paris*, for May 6, 1894, states that Bourget (of Lausanne) uses the following prescription about inflamed rheumatic joints:

℞

Salicylic acid	ʒiii
Lanolin	ʒiii
Oil of turpentine	ʒiii
Lard	ʒiii

On the application of this salve, Bourget claims that the pain is rapidly diminished, and he also thinks that a sufficient quantity of the salicylic acid is absorbed to produce a therapeutic influence.

THE death-rate in appendicitis is about 18 per cent. This mortality, it is claimed, could be reduced at least 5 per cent. if early operations were done.

Morning Diarrhea and Its Treatment.

Dr. P. L. Brunton, in Med. Week, 1894; II; p. 311.

The author considers the special form of diarrhea, which occurs in the morning, as due to a chronic state of irritation or congestion of the sigmoid flexure or of the rectum. If this congestion is too frequently repeated, it is gradually changed into an inflammatory condition which may ultimately result in the production of intestinal ulceration. In this form of diarrhea, the region of the sigmoid flexure is very tender. On palpation, the intestine is frequently found to be contracted to a thick, hard band.

As the capital point in the treatment of this affection is mentioned absolute abstinence from the ingestion of liquids of any description for a period of from twelve to fifteen hours preceding the moment at which the diarrhea usually appears, that is to say, after 5 or 6 o'clock in the evening. The most that should be permitted, if the patient suffers greatly from thirst, is a few mouthfuls of liquid. During the day, beverages may be allowed, but only in moderate quantities. In addition, the irritability of the intestine is to be allayed by the administration of bismuth subnitrate and sodium bicarbonate. In obstinate cases, it is stated, massage may be advantageously employed.

Poisons on Fruit.

Sanitarian.

There has been much discussion of late concerning the danger of poisoning from eating fruit which has been sprayed with salts of copper or arsenic to destroy insects or fungi upon the plants.

It is stated that experiments have been carried on for two years at the Michigan Agricultural College with a view of finding out the truth in the matter.

The important question is: Do the poisons penetrate the skin of the fruit? The tests have shown that copper sulphate has passed into the body of the pear, though more of

the solution remained upon the skin. If this peel is not a protection, what can be said of the thinner skins, like those of the plum, the cherry, berries, etc.? Dr. Kedzie, who made the analyses, says that horticulturists often use much larger quantities of the poisonous solutions than are necessary to destroy the life of the fungi; one-half or even a third of the quantity generally used would be enough.

It is not safe to eat fruit which has been sprayed with any poisonous salts, for while the poison received into the system from one pound might not be harmful, if no more were taken, repeating the dose may in time result in slow poisoning.

And how are people in the cities to know whether or not their fruit has been sprayed?

Fatty Degeneration of the Heart.

The Medical Fortnightly.

Flexnor (*Johns Hopkins' Bulletin, March, 1894,*) examined microscopically the hearts of 170 patients dying from different causes, to determine the accuracy of Krehl's recent statement that fatty degeneration of the heart muscle occurs in phosphorous poisoning only. The examination consisted in the study of sections mainly from the left ventricle, usually including its entire thickness. The heart muscle was found to be "black with fat" in a woman who had been admitted to the hospital with the diagnosis of hysteria with amenorrhea, death following dilatation and curetting of the uterus. Another woman in the third month of pregnancy died suddenly after an obstinate and prolonged siege of vomiting. Frozen sections of heart, liver and kidneys showed most extensive fatty degeneration. A third patient showing emaciation only, without organic lesions, began to vomit, and died one month after being admitted. The autopsy revealed a condition similar to the others, none of which presented other pathological lesions than the intense fatty changes in the parenchymatous organs. In his experiments upon nineteen animals, guinea pigs, rabbits and kittens, dead of the inoculation of diphtheria or its products, fatty degeneration appeared in fourteen. Apparently the condition was due to the intensity of the poison, rather than to the time of its action. The author is inclined to the belief that fever, or anemia alone, has relatively slight influence in bringing about this condition; but it is more likely to be secondary to infectious diseases, a cell metabolism resembling that which phosphorous intoxication induces.

Listol in Cutaneous Traumatisms.

By J. H. McCormick, M. D., Washington, D. C., in the Medical Fortnightly, August 1, 1894.

The great object in treating traumatic lesions of the integument is to obtain a dressing, which is at once cheap, pleasant and of the necessary antiseptic power. We have today a vast number of antiseptics, more or less efficacious, but are for one or more reasons objectionable; either they are of a disagreeable odor or they are too expensive to admit of their general use. Iodoform, thymol, iodol, and many others of similar composition, have enjoyed a reputation either general or local, but for the reason noted, yet lack in those qualities which go to make an ideal antiseptic. The first of these, iodoform, stands pre-eminently at the head, so far as reliability is concerned; but it is open to the objection that it has a sickening, penetrating and lasting odor, which makes it offensive and undesirable for use, except in hospital practice; others of this class are so expensive as to—in a measure—prohibit their general use and confine their field of usefulness among the few to whom expense is a secondary and unimportant consideration, and unfortunately they are but few. For some time past investigators have attempted to find a preparation which would have none of the objectionable features of iodoform, yet at the same time would have equal antiseptic properties, and at a cost sufficiently moderate as to bring it within the reach of

all. Among the many products thus produced Listol makes a claim that would seem to leave nothing to be desired, inasmuch as it does away with the odor, and its cost is minimized, so that its extended use is not precluded. The following cases, taken from the register of my private clinic, illustrates its beneficial results in as many classes or varieties to which it is applicable. In the subjoined descriptions only those portions of the records are given which have a direct bearing on the treatment.

Case II. Date, May 12, 1894; clinic No. 821-94; name, F. C.; age, 23 years, 4 months; sex, female; nationality, American, colored. History: Applied for treatment for abscess of tendons on anterior aspect of right thumb. Patient suffering from chronic rheumatism, nodes quite pronounced and an ankylosis of elbow. The abscess had broken down and a quantity of thick pus exuded. The edges were turned outward, forming a flange like the end of a trumpet. This was dressed with Listol for three weeks twice a week and healed rapidly.

A Contribution to the Study of Piperazine.

Dr. John Gordon, professor of Materia Medica University of Aberdeen, recently undertook a systematic study "to ascertain the solvent action of piperazine on uric acid," the expenses connected with the investigation being defrayed by the Scientific Grants Committee of the British Medical Association; Schering's Piperazine was employed, Prof. Alexander Ogston furnished the supplies of calculi, and the investigation was made in the pharmacological laboratory of Prof. John Theodore Cash, F. R. S. The full report is published in the *British Medical Journal*, June 16, 1894, and is an important and highly interesting contribution, which will give the therapeutic adoption of Piperazine-Schering a decided stimulus.

Dr. Gordon concludes his report with the following succinct summary:

Action of Piperazine on Artificial Uric Acid.—As the result of numerous experiments on artificial uric acid, and also on uric acid which was collected from urine which had been treated with hydrochloric acid, it was found that piperazine was capable of dissolving almost its own weight in urine, after the phosphates had been removed; but when stronger solutions than 2.5 per cent were employed an insoluble precipitate formed.

Summary of Results.—1. Piperazine is not wholly oxidized in the body, and may be detected in the urine of those to whom it is exhibited.

2. Piperazine in solution of 1 per cent in normal urine, when kept in contact at a temperature of 39° C. (body temperature) for a given time, has the property of dissolving to a great extent a fragment of a uric acid calculus.

3. That the stronger the solution of piperazine in urine (up to 7.5 per cent) the earlier did the solvent action begin and the more rapid was the completion.

4. That, notwithstanding this, with the stronger solutions of piperazine in urine the rate of solubility was not so markedly rapid over the weaker solutions as might be expected.

5. That the solvent action of piperazine in similar circumstances was greater than any other of the substances that were employed, viz., borax, lithium citrate, sodium carbonate and potassium citrate.

6. That piperazine, in weak and strong solutions in urine, converted the undissolved portion of the calculus into a soft granular or pulpy condition.

7. That neither borax, lithium citrate, sodium carbonate nor potassium citrate in similar circumstances rendered the fragment of calculus soft or pulpy.

The report is made up in part by comparative tables of experiments, and these with the elucidating text form a complete and conclusive argument in favor of Piperazine-Schering as an invaluable therapeutic agent in uric acid diathesis.

Somatose in Infant Feeding.

One of the chief problems in infant feeding has been the possibility of so modifying cow's milk that it serves as a perfect substitute for woman's milk. This problem may now be considered as solved. To more closely assimilate cow's milk in composition with woman's milk, Dr. Riedel suggested that the former, after proper dilution (to reduce the quantity of casein), should receive an addition of fat, sugar and albumoses obtained by heating egg-albumen to 130 degrees. This preparation was extensively employed by Dr. Hauser at Prof. Henoch's Pediatric Clinic at the University of Berlin and proved an excellent infant food. Children which had developed marasmus under use of cow's milk or one of the artificial infant foods rapidly gained in flesh and strength when the albumose milk was substituted for the former, and this favorable result was also observed in cases of rickets, tuberculosis, nephritis, etc. This mixture, however, was found to have the disadvantage that both the evacuations and the flatus acquire an intensely disagreeable odor in consequence of the sulphur compounds contained in egg-albumen and retained in the albumoses when prepared according to Riedel's method. Inasmuch as Somatose consists almost exclusively of albumoses produced from meat, which contain but a slight amount of sulphur and are fully as effective as the albumoses derived from egg-albumen, its substitution for the latter in the mixture is strongly urged as furnishing an ideal infant food, corresponding exactly to woman's milk, both as regards chemical composition and nutritive properties.

A preparation known as Somatose mother-milk is now furnished by many milk sterilizing institutions in the large cities of Germany. The following is an excellent method of preparing this new milk food: To 1 litre of cow's milk (morning milk) add 730 cubic centimetres water, 10.7 grammes Somatose, 46 grammes sugar of milk, 33.5 grammes fat (that is 71 grammes cream containing on an average 50 per cent fat). The quantity of fat in the cream should be determined before its addition. Place the Somatose in a glass vessel containing 20 c. cm. of boiling water, and stir with a glass spatula, allowing the mixture to stand until the Somatose is dissolved, which will require about half an hour. Then add the remainder of the water, together with the sugar of milk, and stir until dissolved. Mix the milk and cream, shake well, and add to the Somatose solution. After a thorough mixture has been effected, pour into bottles and sterilize in the customary manner.

WYTHE claims that every case of appendicitis from its incipiency should be treated by a surgeon with the regular medical attendant.

HAIG regards a majority of cases of perityphlitis as rheumatic or gouty, and claims excellent results from the use of salicylates.

ACCORDING to Prof. Zehander, one eye being lost, the earning capacity of the other eye equals 66⅔ per cent.

THE sulphate of aluminum is the new injection for gonorrhea—one part to 500 or 1,000 of distilled water.

THE belief is becoming more general among physicians that tuberculosis is a non-inheritable disease.

DR. JOHN WILLIAMS, of London, who attended the Duchess of York in confinement, has been made a baronet.